

From Storehouse to Clubhouse Collection Management and the Library as Place

Indiana Library Federation Conference
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Challenges of digital age to traditional library as a physical space

- ◉ everything's on the internet
- ◉ libraries have made databases, catalogs and other aids accessible remotely
- ◉ libraries provide e-books and e-journals
- ◉ interlibrary loan articles sent electronically
- ◉ some now believe that the library needs no physical space
- ◉ administrators want space for other purposes

One response is the library as place movement

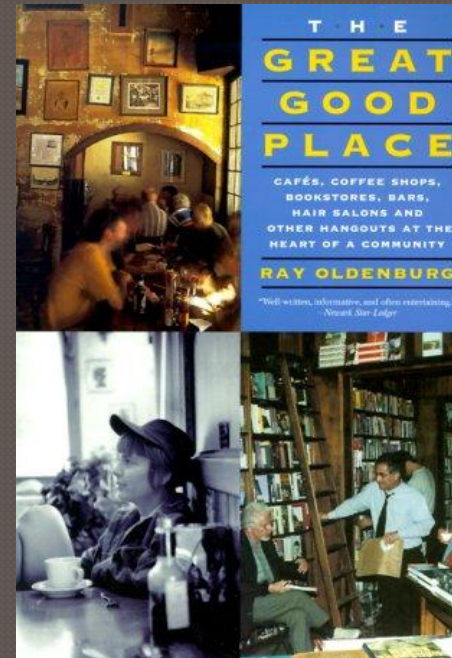
What is the library as place?

- ◉ library as community center
- ◉ library as a learning commons
- ◉ library with coffee shop or cafe
- ◉ library as living room
- ◉ library as study hall
- ◉ library as information resource

One way to approach the library as place

Ray Oldenburg *The Great Good Place*

third place is the place after home and work that provides for community interaction and socialization



Oldenburg's characteristics of the third place

- ◉ *neutral ground* – individuals can come and go as they please
- ◉ *leveler* – no distinction between class, rank, and social position
- ◉ *communication* – conversation is the main activity
- ◉ *accessibility* – close proximity to home
- ◉ *regulars* – full of familiar faces
- ◉ *membership* – where new comers are welcome
- ◉ *mood* – where acceptance reigns over alienation

Traditional libraries have some third place characteristics

- ◉ open long hours
- ◉ easily accessible to the university community
- ◉ multi-purpose facility where every member of the community is welcome
- ◉ frequented by regulars
- ◉ can come and go as one pleases
- ◉ no one, central figure plays host

Storehouse Mentality

- historically libraries are places to house books and journals
- traditional goal for libraries has been growth in collections
- statistics emphasize number of volumes library holds
- public image: the library keeps “everything”

Our hope or our nightmare?



“When I look at books, I see an outdated technology, like scrolls before books,” said headmaster James Tracy .

In 2009 Cushing Academy discarded its 20,000 plus books. Administration at the 144-year-old school have decided to discard all their books and have given away half of what stocked their sprawling stacks - the classics, novels, poetry, biographies, tomes on every subject from the humanities to the sciences. The future, they believe, is digital. (Abel 2009)

Cunningham Memorial Library Indiana State University



Library Mission Statement

Through innovation and dedication to the lifelong pursuit of knowledge, we are creating a library environment that provides for the academic and social needs of the global community.

We are YOUR library.

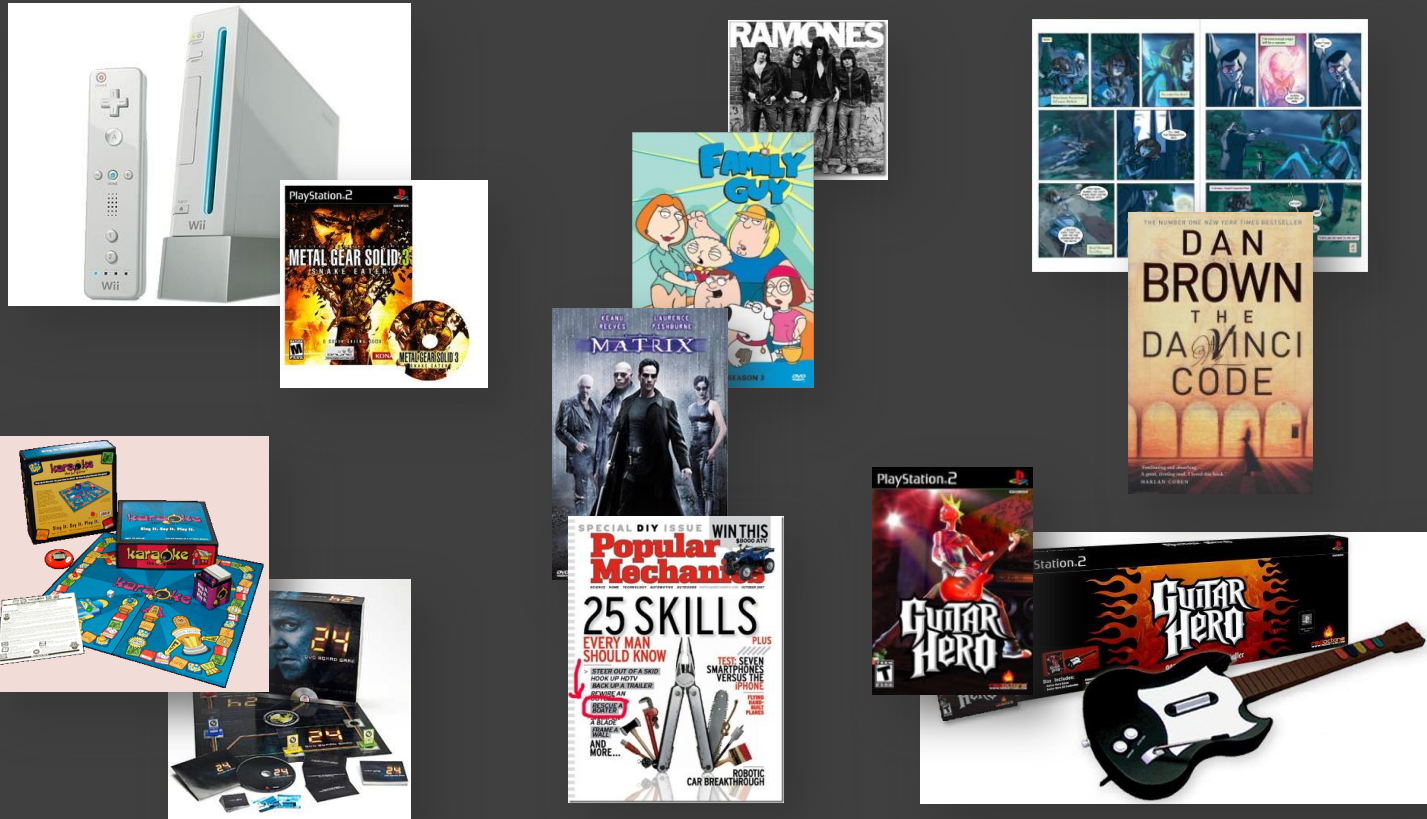
Library Logo and Slogan



The library as place at ISU



Non-traditional collection development decisions

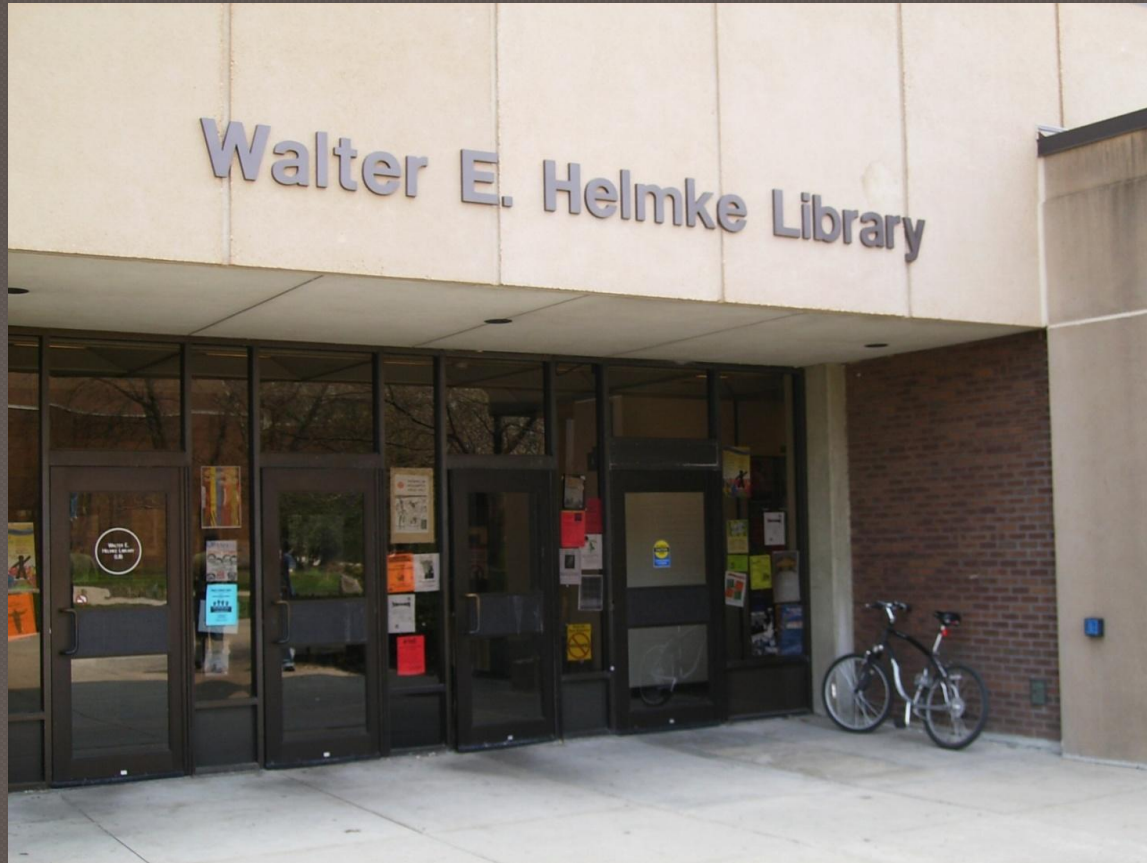


Lesson learned

- ◉ having several librarians collect in different areas ensures diversity
- ◉ using authority lists helps keep the browsing fund from turning into a cash cow for popular items
- ◉ distinction between leisure based and curriculum based material can blur
- ◉ this distinction is echoed by students mixing their leisure and study activities
- ◉ students appreciate responsiveness to their tastes
- ◉ browsing collection helps publicize the library as place

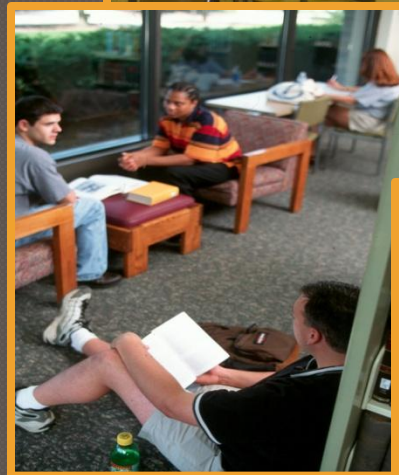
Walter E. Helmke Library

Indiana University Purdue University Fort Wayne



Helmke Today

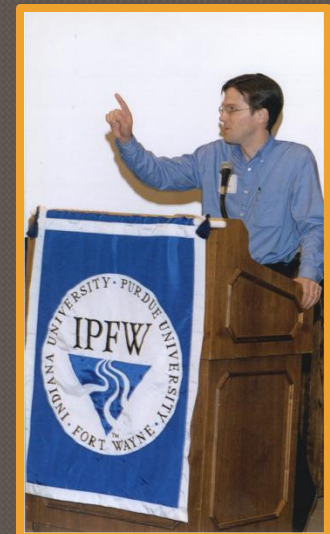
Even as we eagerly plan for the renovations envisioned by the IFPW Learning Commons, Helmke Library is abuzz with activity. We are seeing substantial gate counts with students meeting with librarians, studying, using computer workstations, working on group projects, and socializing.



- Truesdell, Cheryl. "Notes from the Dean," *Helmke Highlights*, 2:2, 2009

“The library is offering its space for displays, lecture series, student activities, meetings, and training.”

Truesdell, Cheryl. “Notes from the Dean,” *Helmke Highlights*, 2:2, 2009

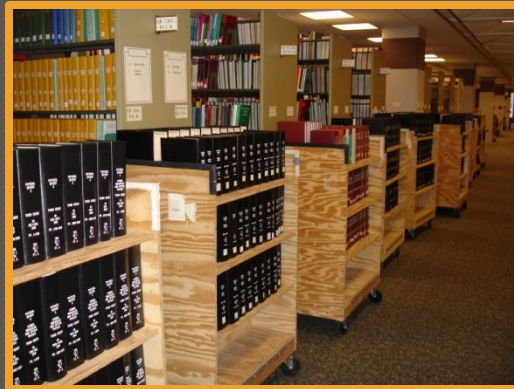


Helmke Library at a Crossroads

Space crunch



- no library addition
- empty second floor to be used for Learning Commons
- consolidate materials onto third and fourth floors
- maintain space for continued growth



Collection Decisions

Changes in long-time policies and practices

- ◉ very limited acceptance of gifts
- ◉ not adding extra copies
- ◉ not retaining older editions
- ◉ no duplication---must select online *or* print

Collection Decisions

JOURNAL /PERIODICAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

- moved from print to electronic
- buy print if that is the **only** option
- withdrawing print runs whenever possible



REFERENCE SOURCES

- relying on e-Reference collections
- buying electronic over print whenever possible
- Weeding print reference works
- Weeding indexing and abstracting sets duplicated by online resources

Collection Decisions

GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS

- many U. S. Publications issued electronically
- reduced item selection
- systematic weeding
- moving to storage/ compact shelving

MONOGRAPHS

- systematically weeding the circulating collection
(we added very liberally in the past ---gifts, duplicates, retained older editions of reference works for circulation, retained older editions of books)
- buying print (rarely ebooks)

Library as place and collection management

- ◉ Must the academic/school/public library have to choose between all digital or all print?
- ◉ What collection development practices should librarians adopt or discard?
- ◉ Can educational libraries provide research material while also providing recreational material?
- ◉ Can the collection management decisions we make today help drive the role libraries play in future?
- ◉ What should librarians be telling administrators and civic leaders who have control of library funding?
- ◉ What should librarians be asking their users about library collections?

References

Abel, David. "Welcome to the library. Say goodbye to the books.." *Boston Globe*, September 4, 2009:
<http://www.boston.com/news/education/k_12/articles/2009/09/04/a_library_without_the_books/>.

Oldenburg, ray. *The Great Good Place: Cafes, Coffee Shops, Bookstores, Bars, Hair Salons, and Other Hangouts at the Heart of a Community* . 3rd ed. New York: Da Capo Press, 1999.

Susan M. Frey
Indiana State University
(812) 237-2579
susan.frey@indstate.edu

Margit Codispoti
IPFW
(260) 481-6507
codispot@ipfw.edu



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